



## HISTORY

- The Basin F project site is located in the northwest portion of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal's 27-square mile site.
- Basin F was constructed by the Army in 1956 to provide for the disposal of contaminated liquid wastes from the Army and Shell Oil Company's chemical manufacturing operations. It was constructed with an asphalt liner to prevent leakage into the ground and had a maximum capacity of 243 million gallons and covered approximately 93 acres (of the total 17,000 acres that made up the Rocky Mountain Arsenal).
- When in operation, its primary purpose was to hold liquid waste from Army and Shell manufacturing operations, including the waste from the South Plants and North Plants manufacturing areas.
- The Army and Shell Oil Company stopped using Basin F in the early 1980s.
- The Basin F interim remedial action began in 1988 to drain, store and later incinerate existing liquids, mix the remaining sludges with soil, and excavate and consolidate the soil/sludge mixture into a wastepile located within the basin area.
- During the interim remedial action, complaints from a neighboring community were received regarding odors coming from the project site. The odors were due in part to the large excavation area, which made it difficult to control the odors.
- An interim soil cover was placed over the area in 1989 until final remedy plans were evaluated, developed and scheduled.

## PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

- The final Basin F Wastepile remedy involves the excavation of the soil/dried sludge from the Wastepile and its disposal into the on-site, triple-lined Enhanced Landfill. When the Wastepile is excavated, a variety of odor controls will be applied as necessary. These include: adding additional clean soil as a cover; applying an odor-suppressing foam over the excavated area; covering the excavation area with a thick plastic liner (geomembrane); reducing the rate of excavation; or, temporarily suspending the project on a day-to-day basis during unfavorable weather conditions.
- The Basin F Wastepile removal and landfill project is scheduled to begin in April 2006 and be completed by October 2007, weather permitting.
- The Wastepile remedy design uses lessons-learned from the initial remedial action that took place in the 1980s and the experience Arsenal experts have gained from the completion of other on-site cleanup projects. The excavation design, air and odor controls and monitoring plans and contingency plans for the project were developed collaboratively with all the regulatory agencies.
- The primary improvements made to this Basin F Wastepile project compared to the Basin F interim remedy of 1988-1989 are a significantly smaller excavation area, multiple odor and emission control methods and more stringent air and odor criteria. For example, 93 acres were excavated during the Basin F interim remedy, exposing the entire Basin F site during excavation. However, during the upcoming excavation, an area equivalent to only about 1% of that area will be exposed at any one time, resulting in significantly reduced odors. In addition, the transfer of the Wastepile material to the on-site landfill will begin at a "slow start" pace, with extra air-monitoring during the first few weeks of the project, to ensure that odors and emissions are controlled at the project site during the workday and throughout the night, when the project is shut down and covered with soil.
- Throughout the excavation process and the placing of material into the Enhanced Landfill, air emissions and any odors will be strictly monitored and controlled day and night. Numerous air-monitoring stations will be located around the project site and at the Arsenal boundary. Arsenal and Tri-County Health Department staff will be monitoring odor levels near the project site and at the fenceline day and night.

- In order to achieve the project goal of minimizing nuisance odors, the Basin F cleanup will occur only when appropriate weather conditions exist.
- As the Wastepile excavation is completed, the area will be backfilled with clean soil.
- Once the area has been completely excavated, a protective, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) -Equivalent cover will be constructed over the area. The RCRA-Equivalent cover will consist of a layer of crushed concrete to prevent wildlife from burrowing into the waste and a vegetative soil layer to absorb and hold precipitation until it evaporates or is used by the vegetative cover. Once in place, the cover will be reseeded with native vegetation in order to blend in with the surrounding prairie.
- The safety of Arsenal workers and the surrounding community continues to be the Arsenal's top priority. The proposed cleanup plan for the Basin F area provides overall protection of public health and the environment.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- While the Basin F Wastepile "slow start" portion of the project is in progress, all Refuge visitor activities will be temporarily suspended. Once the odor controls have been proven effective and the project moves into routine operations, the Refuge may reopen for public visitation in accordance with the Refuge Public Use Plan. The public will be notified when public programs will resume and the Refuge is open for visitation. To contact a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative or for more information about the Refuge, call 303-289-0930 or visit <http://rockymountainarsenal.fws.gov>.
- Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) has an odor response / 24-hour information line set up at 303-286-8032 to respond to community inquiries. TCHD staff also is available to investigate any suspected Arsenal-related odor concerns.
- Currently, the Arsenal is undergoing a safe and extensive environmental cleanup of the site's soil, structures and groundwater, which is anticipated to be complete in 2011. As the remediation progresses, the site will continue its transition to one of the nation's largest, urban wildlife refuges. As of 2005, nearly one-third of the site's original 27 square miles already has been incorporated into the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Additional suggested contact information:

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